(घ) और (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता है।

Working of Employment Assistance Centres

745. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working of Employment Assistance Centres temporarily operated to make arrangements for alternative employment of workers effected by structural changes in economy; and

(b) the action taken by Government on the basis of this review?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government have set up the National Renewal Fund on February 3, 1992 to protect the interests of workers effected by modernisation, technology upgradation and industrial restructuring. The Fund, *inter alia*, provides assistance to cover the costs of retraining and redeployment of effected workers. Initially, five nodal agencies set up Employee Assistance Centres at Bombay, Ahmedabad, Indore, Kanpur and Calcutta on a pilot scale basis for counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to workers. On a review of the scheme of Employee Assistance Centres, set-up on a pilot scale basis, it has now been extended to 49 locations in 16 States through 13 nodal agencies.

Strike in Singareni Collieries Limited, Andhra Pradesh

746. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dissention amongst the recognised and non-recognised trade unions regarding agitation and strike in Singareni Collieries Limited, Andhara Pradesh;

(b) what were the demands of the Singareni Colliery workers who went on strike in the month of October, 1995;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to settle their disputes/ demand so that the workers may discipline themselves and devote their energy and time for more production; and

(d) What steps Government have taken/propose to take to avert such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands of striking workers of Singareni Collieries Company Limited are:—

(i) Finalisation of pension scheme.

(ii) Modalities for application of new Dearness Allowance formula.

(iii) Employment of dependants.

(c) and (d) Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry which includes the Labour Unions and management of all coal companies has been holding negotiations to arrive at the National Coal Wage Agreement-V, which covers all the demands of the workers.

Fires/Explosions in fire works factories

747. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAOSHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of incidents of fires/explosions in fire works factories have occurred this year in different parts of the country with heavy casualties and exposing improper enforcement of security and safety norms and labour laws;

(b) if so, the number and details of fire accidents in fire works factory during the current year and comparative figures for 1994 and 1993 indicating the number of casualties; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such violation of laws and norms?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c): The information is being collected

and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Corruption Cases

748. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Director General of Mines Safety was arrested by CBI while taking bribe from IISCO;

(b) whether it is a fact that many corruption cases have been found in this organisation;

(c) if so, what corrective measures Government plans to do in this matter; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No other such complaints of corruptions in the DGMS organisation have been received.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Programmes/Schemes for eradication of poverty

749. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 796 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government have formulated some programmes and schemes for eradication of poverty in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) The major poverty eradication programme being implemented in the rural areas of country are (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS); and (iv) National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). The Nehru Rozgar Yojana and the Prime Ministers Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PM's IUPEP) are the poverty eradication programme being implemented in the urban areas of the country.

The details of these programmes are given below:—

(i) *Integrated Rural Development programme (IRDP):* IRDP is in operation in all the blocks of the country. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented on a 50:50 basis by the Centre and the States.

IRDP aims at providing self-employment opportunities to the rural poor through assistance in the form of subsidy and bank credit to enable them to acquire productive assets and appropriate skills to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. The target group consists largely of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans whose annual income is below the poverty line of Rs. 11,000 at 1991-92 prices. Within the target group there is an ensured coverage of certain categories—SC/ST 50%; women 40%; and physically handicapped 3%. Priority in assistance is also given to the families belonging to the assignees of ceiling surplus land, green card holders under the family welfare programme and freed bonded labourers.

(ii) *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY):* The JRY is a wage employment programme where the main objective is the generation of additional gainful employment for the unemployed and unemployed rural people, on public works which would lead to creation of rural infrastructure and assets for more sustained employment. This programme was modified in 1993-94 and is now implemented in 3 streams. Under the 1st stream funds are earmarked for